AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for automated provisioning of computer networks comprising a plurality of customer accounts, wherein each customer is assigned to an individual virtual local area network (VLAN), and wherein the customer accounts relate to specific customer hardware devices contained on the network, and specific customer software applications deployed by way of the computer network, comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one command to ~~be executed~~ install one or more software packages on a network device related to a specific customer account;

reading parameters from a network database related to said customer account;

determining whether the at least one command can be properly executed based upon the parameters read by determining whether the one or more software packages relates to said specific customer; and

executing the at least one command to install one or more software packages, by a network agent on the network device, only if it is determined that the at least one command can be properly executed.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent provides information needed to execute the command for comparison with parameters read from the network database.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the determination that a command can be properly executed is only made if the information needed to execute the command matches the parameters read from the network database.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a message that at least one command is to be executed from a secure provisioning network; and

verifying the validity of the message by requesting verification from the secure provisioning network.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of verifying is accomplished by way of a communication gateway of the provisioning network.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining is based upon reading software configuration requirements.

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the software configuration requirements indicate that the at least one command is a customer specific command.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of determining comprises determining whether the customer to which the software configuration requirement is specific is the same customer to which the network device is related.

12.   (Canceled)

13.   (Canceled)

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Canceled)

16.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~13~~ 1, wherein one or more software packages that relate to a specific customer are installed by way of the step of executing only if it is determined in the step of determining that the network device upon which the one or more software packages are to be installed is associated with the customer to which the one or more software packages relate.

17.   (Canceled)

18.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~17~~ 1, wherein the one or more software packages is installed only if the network device resides on the VLAN of the customer to which the one or more software packages relate.

19. – 25. (Canceled)